

Scoil Mhuire



Child Safeguarding Statement

Scoil Mhuire is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of **Scoil Mhuire** has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised (2023))* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) **Siobhán McKiernan (Principal)**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) **Joanne Carr (Deputy Principal)**
4. The Relevant Person is **Siobhán McKiernan (Principal)**

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)

5. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully cooperate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;

- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

6. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.


Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

7. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
8. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 19/02/24.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 19/02/24
[most recent review date].

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Scoil Mhuire

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Scoil Mhuire.

List of School Activities	The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities -	The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of a child being harmed in the school by another child/adult. Risk of child being harmed by unknown persons on school grounds Risk of harm being caused to a child as a result of leaving school grounds.	Morning supervision of pupils. Dismissal supervision of pupils Anti-bullying policy. Acceptable Use policy. Code of behaviour. Supervised entry/exit point. Access to school grounds is limited to one entry and exit point. Mobile Phone policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	Injury to pupils/bullying Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Yard supervision procedures Accident Report Forms. Code of behaviour. Anti-bullying policy. Health & Safety Policy
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff In service training. Children First training/monitoring of training needed. Child Protection mentioned at every staff meeting. BOM records all records of staff and board training
Online Teaching and learning remotely Online meetings	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online platforms; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an uninvited person accessing the lesson link 	The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning, remotely. Anti-Bullying procedures including cyber-bullying. Guidelines for online etiquette and learning.
Fire Drill Evacuation	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children Risk of child being harmed by another child	Health and Safety procedures for evacuations. Supervision procedures Critical Incident plan

<p>One to one teaching/learning</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by school personnel. Risk of harm in one to one teaching situation.</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. Open doors Table between teacher and pupil Glass in window Parents notified if child is receiving one to one teaching/small group work Parental permission is sought for any child that may require intimate care needs School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full</p>
<p>Care of children with special needs, including intimate care needs Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay safe.</p>	<p>Harm by school personnel Non-teaching of same. Unable to identify abuse, bullying, safety concerns.</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour</p>
<p>Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint</p>	<p>Risk of a child being harmed by another child. Risk of a child being harmed by an adult member of staff.</p>	<p>The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. The <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools revised 2023</i> are made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools revised 2023</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)</p>
<p>Classroom teaching</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel. Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p>	<p>The school has a Health and Safety statement. Supervision procedures</p>
<p>Outdoor teaching activities</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children. Risk of a child being harmed in the school by another child/adult. Risk of child being harmed by leaving the premises</p>	<p>Supervision procedures Health and Safety Procedures Critical Incident policy</p>
<p>Sporting Activities</p>	<p>Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school</p>	<p>Supervision procedures Health and Safety Procedures Critical Incident policy</p>

	activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons, library, sporting event.	
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	Supervision procedures
Sports Coaches	Risk of harm to pupils	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
Educational Trips/Matches	Harm to pupils	Children are accompanied by teachers. If travelling by bus, the provider must have appropriate seatbelts for every child travelling. Health and Safety Policy
Annual Sports Day	Harm to pupils	Health and Safety Policy
Annual Art Exhibition		
Annual Science Exhibition		
Cycle Training		
Use of off-site facilities for school activities		Supervision Policy
After school clubs	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
Volunteers/Parents	Harm to pupils	Vetting Procedures
Administration of First Aid	Harm to pupils	Procedures for administering First Aid Staff trained in using the defibrillator. Health & Safety Policy
Media Coverage at offsite events	Risk of harm due to digital recording/sharing of school events	Consent Procedures
Unauthorised School Access	Risk of child being harmed in school by an unknown child/adult gaining access into the school. Harm to pupils	Supervision procedures.
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils		Code of Conduct Discipline for Learning documents Anti-bullying policy and procedures. Teaching of the Stay Safe Programme. Supervision procedures.

<p>Recruitment of school personnel including <i>Teachers/SNAs</i> <i>Caretaker/secretary/cleaners</i> <i>External Tutors/guest speakers</i> <i>Volunteers/parents in school activities</i> <i>Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours</i> <i>Visitors/contractors present after school activities</i></p>	<p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p>	<p>The school adheres to the relevant requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff.</p>
<p>Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum</p> <p>Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on Child Protection • Notification System (CPNS) • Children with medical needs <p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school which includes social media</p> <p>Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including</p>	<p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to racism.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p> <p>Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.</p> <p>Risk of harm due to inappropriate/unauthorised relationship/communications between child and another child or adult.</p> <p>Risk of harm to children due to unauthorised access with court orders.</p>	<p>Garda vetting required prior to contact. School staff remain with children. Supervision procedures.</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour</p>
	<p>Risk of harm of online bullying Risk of harm due to access to content/strangers Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. Staff not following policies & procedures Risk of harm to child/another child. Risk of harm due to bullying of a child.</p>	<p>Acceptable Use Policy</p>
		<p>Discipline for Learning for pupils. Mobile phone policy.</p>

detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	
Students participating in work experience in the school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school.
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel.	Garda vetting required prior to contact. School staff remain with children. Supervision procedures
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	Risk of harm due to children due to digital recording/sharing of school events.	Permission sought from parents on enrolment

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

Mandatory Template 3: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

To: The Patron

The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board meeting of 19/02/24 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website

Signed Ry WSM Date 19-2-2024

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Sibhan Mckiernan Date 19/02/24

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management